

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02978 120847Z

17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8546

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 2978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: REPLY FROM PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA TO PRESIDENT
NIXON'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

REF: VIENTIANE 2934

1. WE RECEIVED APRIL 12 A REPLY FROM PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA, DATED APRIL 11, TO THE MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS SENT BY PRESIDENT NIXON ON THE OCCASION OF FORMATION OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION APRIL 5. WE ARE POUCHING THE SIGNED FRENCH-LANGUAGE ORIGINAL TO EA/LC FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE WHITE HOUSE. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF THIS MESSAGE:

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. PRESIDENT:

I READ YOUR CONSIDERATE MESSAGE SENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMATION OF THE NEW LOA PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WITH VERY GREAT PLEASURE, AND I THANK YOU FOR IT VERY SINCERELY.

THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION HAS BEEN THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF MY POLICY, ALONG WITH THE EFFORT TO HAVE THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGE THE STATUS OF NEUTRALITY OF LAOS. AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, WE HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED AT THE GOAL OF OUR EFFORTS. I HOPE THAT THIS TIME IT WILL PROVE DEFINITE, AND THAT LAOS WILL NEVER AGAIN SUFFER DIVISION AND AGGRESSION.

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THE TASKS WHICH AWAIT THE NEW GOVERNMENT ARE ENORMOUS. WE HAVE

NEED OF ALL OUR COURAGE AND OF FOREIGN AID TO RECONSTRUCT OUR COUNTRY. THEREFORE, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE DECISIONS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD, AND BY THE ASSURANCES THAT YOU HAVE KINDLY GIVEN US YOURSELF OF THE SUPPORT THAT YOU WILL AFFORD TO US.

THE FEBRUARY 1973 AGREEMENT AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM EXPRESS OUR VIEWPOINT AND OUR HOPES FOR LAOS. IF THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED, PEACE IN THE KINGDOM IS ASSURED. IN THIS REGARD, THE ACTION OF THE GREAT POWERS CAN EQUALLY DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF AN INDEPENDENT AND PROSPEROUS LAOS. (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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